Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 126034
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 126034

FOL KABUL 3933 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ISLAMABAD MOSCOW
NEW DELHI TEHRAN MAY 15, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 3933

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, PINT, PGOV, SHUM, AF
SUBJECT: WIDESPREAD ARRESTS AND REPORTED EXECUTIONS CONTINUE
UNABATED

1. SUMMARY: ARRESTS OF ENTIRE FAMILIES, INCLUDING WOMEN
AND CHILDREN, CONTINUE, AND RUMORS OF EXECUTIONS OF FORMER
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE NOW WIDESPREAD THROUGHOUT KABUL.
WE CAN CONFIRM THAT FAMILIES RELATED TO THE ROYAL LINE,
INDIVIDUALS RELATED TO THESE FAMILIES, AND LEADING OFFICIALS
OF PAST ROYAL AND DAOUD REGIMES, ARE THE SPECIFIC TARGETS
OF THE REGIME'S CAMPAIGN. WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING,
HOWEVER, WHETHER THIS CURRENT EFFORT WILL EVENTUALLY
SPREAD TO OTHER MOHAMMADZAI FAMILIES OR TO OTHER INDIVIDUALS
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PAGE 02 STATE 126034

ASSOCIATED WITH PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS. END OF SUMMARY.

2. ON MAY 13, THE AFGHAN PRESS CARRIED THE TEXT OF
PRIME MINISTER NOOR MOHAMMAD TARAKI'S PRESS CONFERENCE
OF MAY 6 WITH THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS. THE ACCOUNT
INCLUDED TARAKI'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT THAT FORMER FOREIGN
MINISTER WAHEED ABDULLAH HAD BEEN KILLED. IN RESPONSE

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

TO A DIRECT QUESTION REGARDING ABDULLAH'S WELFARE, TARAKI
REPLIED THAT "HE RESISTED" AND ADDED THAT "WAHEED ABDULLAH
AND ALL THOSE TYRANTS WERE DESTROYED". WE HAVE RECEIVED
CONFLICTING REPORTS ABOUT HOW ABDULLAH DIED, BUT MOST OSBERVERS
CLAIM THAT HE WAS EXECUTED ON APRIL 30, AND NOT KILLED
DURING THE FIGHTING AT THE PALACE, AS HAD BEEN REPORTED EARLIER.

3. RUMORS OF EXECUTIONS OF PROMINENT FORMER OFFICIALS
OF DAOUD'S GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS GOVERNMENTS OF THE KING,
ARE CURRENTLY SWEEPING KABUL. THOSE MEMBERS OF DADOU'S
CABINET WHO REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN PUT TO DEATH ARE:
AZIZULLAH WASSIFI, FORMER MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE; GHAUSUDDIN
FAYEQ, FORMER MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS; WAFIULLAH SAMAYEE,
FORMER MINISTER OF JUSTICE; AND, ABDUL KARIM ATTAYEE,
FORMER MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS. IN ADDITION, WE CAN
CONFIRM THAT THREE FORMER PRIME MINISTERS UNDER KING ZAHIR
HAVE BEEN ARRESTED: MOHAMMAD MUSA SHAFIQ, NUR AHMAD ETEMADI,
AND ABDUL ZAHIR. WIDESPREAD RUMORS NOW CONTEND THAT ETEMADI
AND MOHAMMAD MUSA SHAFIQ HAVE BEEN EXECUTED. IN ADDITION,
WE KNOW THAT SABAHUDDIN KHUSHKAKI, MINISTER OF INFORMATION
AND CULTURE UNDER PRIME MINISTER ZAHIR, WAS ARRESTED, AND HE
HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN EXECUTED. TIMUR SHAH ASEFI, HUSBAND
OF ONE OF NADER SHAH'S DAUGHTERS, HAS ALSO REPORTEDLY
BEEN KILLED. AT THIS TIME, WE ARE UNABLE TO CONFIRM THAT
THESE EXECUTIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE, BUT THE RUMORS ARE SO
WIDESPREAD THAT THERE IS PROBABLY TRUTH IN SOME OF THEM.
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4. WE CAN CONFIRM THAT ARRESTS OF ENTIRE FAMILIES, INCLUDING
WOMEN AND CHILDREN, RELATED TO THE ROYAL FAMILY (THE
MUSAHIBAN LINE OF THE YAHYA KHEL OF THE MOHAMMADZSIS) HAVE
TAKEN PLACE AND THE DETAINEES ARE BEING HELD IN AN UNFINISHED
PRISON AT PUL-I-CHARKI JUST OUTSIDE KABUL. CONDITIONS AT THIS
PRISON ARE PRIMITIVE, AT BEST, WITH NO RUNNING WATER, TOLIET
FACILITIES, OR VENTILATION. ONE AFGHAN WHO WAS RELEASED REPORTED
THAT SEVERAL TIMES DAILY INDIVIDUALS ARE REMOVED FROM THEIR
CELLS AND ARE NOT SEEN AGAIN. ALL THE SULAIMAN FAMILIES HAVE BEEN
ARRESTED, INCLUDING THOSE OF GENERAL ROKAI SULAIMAN, (ALSO
BELIEVED BY HIS FAMILY TO HAVE BEEN EXECUTED) AND FOREIGN
MINISTRY OFFICIAL ABDUL ALI SULAIMAN. SOME MEMBERS OF THE
SULAIMAN FAMILY ARE DIRECTLY RELATED TO MEMBERS OF THE
MUSAHIBAN LINE (E.GG., ABDUL ALI SULAIMAN'S WIFE IS A GHAZI),
BUT RELIABLE REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE SULAIMANS ARE A GOVERNMENT
TARGET BECAUSE THEY RECEIVED THEIR LANDS THROUGH A ROYAL GRANT
FROM KING NADER SHAH, AND THUS ALL THEIR PROPERTY HAS BEEN
NATIONALIZED UNDER THE REGIME'S ANTI-NADER DECREES. THE
SURVIVING MEMBERS OF THE MUSAHIBAN LINE, HOWEVER, REMAIN THE
SPECIFIC TARGET OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CAMPAIGN. THE DAOUD AND
NAIM FAMILIES WERE, OF COURSE, IN EFFECT ELIMINATED DURING

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

THE VIOLENCE AT THE PALACE. THOSE WHO SURVIVED AND WHO
WERE HOSPITALIZED HAVE BEN REMOVED FROM THE HOSPITAL UNDER
ARMED ESCORT. GHAZI FAMILY MEMBERS, MOREOVER, WHO WERE NOT KILLED
AT THAT TIME HAVE NOW BEEN ARRESTED. THESE INCLUDE: MRS.
NAZIFA GHAZI NAWAZ, FORMER HEAD OF AAFGHAN FAMILY GUDIANCE
ASSOCIATION (HER HUSBAND DIED OF A HEART ATTACK SOON AFTER
THE COUP); AND THE ENTIRE FAMILY OF SALAHUDDIN GHAZI. WE HAVE
NO FIRM FIGURES REGARDING HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE NOW HELD OR
BEING SOUGHT BY THE REGIME, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT A MINIMUM OF
50 INDIVIDUALS ARE UNDER DETENTION AT PUL-I-CHARKI.

5. IN ADDITION TO THESE ARRESTS BASED ON FAMILY CONNECTIONS,
WE HAVE HEARD THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS PRESSING ITS SEARCH
FOR FORMER OFFICIALS OF THE DAOUD AND ROYAL GOVERNMENTS.
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IN THIS REGARD, WE HAVE HEARD THAT THE NEW REGIME IS SPECIFICALLY
SEEKING ALL THOSE WHO WERE ASSOCIATED WITH FORMER PRIME
MINISTER MOHAMMAD MUSA SHAFIQ.

6. THE HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS OF THESE WIDESPREAD ARRESTS
AND REPORTED EXECUTIONS ARE CLEAR, AND I AM SUBMITTING MY
RECOMMENDATIONS IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE.
ELIOT UNQUOTE VANCE

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